



RESOLUTION

CITY OF MINNEAPOLIS - A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

By: Jenkins, Reich, Gordon, Fletcher, Cunningham, Ellison,
Warsame, Goodman, Cano, Bender, Schroeder, Johnson, and Palmisano

HONORING BLACK HISTORY MONTH

- Whereas: Since 1926, and the creation of Negro History Week by Dr. Carter G. Woodson, the accomplishments of persons of African descent have been recognized each February; and
- Whereas: The month of February is observed nationally as Black History Month to recognize and celebrate the accomplishments Black Americans have made and continue to offer to this nation; and
- Whereas: Black History Month acknowledges and honors numerous past and present educators, scientists, activists, pioneers, leaders, artists, inventors, entrepreneurs, and elders with special ceremonies and activities; and
- Whereas: In 2016 to celebrate Black History Month, the Minneapolis Department of Civil Rights introduced *Future History Makers*, renamed *History Makers at Home*, a profile series featuring emerging and mid-career leaders from the Twin Cities African American community who share the department’s ideals of advancing civil rights and removing barriers to equity; and
- Whereas: The department identifies trendsetters in the areas of business, criminal justice, education, economic development, health, philanthropy, housing, and government and defined them as *History Makers at Home*; and
- Whereas: The department also recognizes the kinship of the work of trend-setting history makers to those who are legacy trailblazers; and
- Whereas: To support and foster our own *History Makers at Home* in the City of Minneapolis enterprise, an employee resource group to support Black City employees, the Minneapolis Black Employee Network was created on February 23, 2017; and
- Whereas: Each week throughout Black History Month, the Minneapolis Black Employee Network uplifts *History Makers at Home*, hosting events that shine the light on dedicated leaders in the Twin Cities region and shares the stories of those who are making a positive impact and inspiring future generations as well as recognizes Legacy Leaders who paved the path; and
- Whereas: On February 23, 2020, the Minneapolis Black Employees Network will proudly celebrate its three-year anniversary; and
- Whereas: The Minneapolis Black Employee Network offers Black City employees peer support, mentoring, professional development, career counseling, and wellbeing supportive services; and
- Whereas: The Minneapolis Black Employee Network offers the City of Minneapolis recommendations on action steps to recruit, retain, support, and engage Black leaders to the City’s workforce; and
- Whereas: Black history and the contributions of peoples of African ascent is honored and uplifted at the City of Minneapolis not only in the month of February but throughout the entire year. Namely, the City recognizes the National Day of Racial Healing each year by City Council resolution and activities that tell the story of our ancestry and our continued work toward racial justice and Black liberation in the United States of America; and
- Whereas: The City of Minneapolis, in partnership with Hennepin County and the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, recognizes and celebrates the week of Juneteenth activities to commemorate June 19, 1865, when all enslaved persons in the United States of America were determined "free" and entitled to natural born human rights under the law; and
- Whereas: Each year in July we celebrate Black Business Week, created in 2019, by promoting the City’s directory for -- and encouraging patronage of -- Black owned businesses, and bring city officials, leaders of economic development organizations, and members of the business and broader community together to address the unique experiences of Black business leaders. This is an effort to increase ownership, funding opportunities, and business technical assistance for Black entrepreneurs; and
- Whereas: Each year we will continue to highlight dedicated Black leaders in the City of Minneapolis and the Twin Cities region;

—NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED—

That the Mayor and City Council do hereby commemorate the achievements of Black Americans as history makers and legacy trailblazers and their role in the development of the region and the nation since its inception, and we join in recognizing the annual celebration of Black History Month and the anniversary of the Minneapolis Black Employee Network.

Passed this the Thirty-first Day of January, 2020

Lisa Bender, President of the Council

Approved:

Jacob Frey, Mayor

Attest:

Casey Joe Carl, City Clerk